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A1
Cont

that are needle punched (also referred to as needling) into the mass of fibers 10.

A base material like a felt material may be used, or the fibers 10 may have a sufficiently high density that eliminates any necessity of a base material.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 16-19 without prejudice.

Please rewrite claims 1, 3, 8 and 11 as set forth below in clean form.

S. B. 1
A2

1. (Amended) A friction material with improved wear resistance and thermal conductivity, comprising:

- a functionally graded material including a composite material having heat and wear resistant fibers therein impregnated with a resin; and
- a plurality of heat conducting elements situated within said functionally graded material in an orientation and a varying concentration wherein said heat conducting elements transfer heat away from a first friction surface of said functionally graded material to a second non-engaging surface.

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3. (Amended) A friction material as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plurality of heat conducting elements are positioned substantially normal to said first friction surface of said functionally graded material.

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8. (Amended) A friction material as set forth in claim 1, wherein said heat conducting elements comprise a greater density on said first friction surface than said second non-engaging surface.